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410 Conflict of laws. Course
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CONFLICT OF LAWS

COURSE MATERIALS
1974-75

PROFESSOR JOHN SWAN

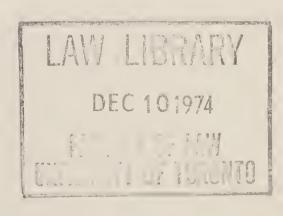


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CONFLICTS

INTRODUCTION

The subject matter of conflicts consists of cases with geographically complex fact situations. For example, a case which involved a contract for the sale of goods from Montreal to Toronto would be a conflicts case since the facts of the case straddle two political divisions of Canada, Quebec and Ontario. So too a case involving the recognition of a foreign (i.e., outside Ontario or Canada) divorce decree is a conflicts case. In theory, the problems of conflicts can come up in any private law field; contracts, torts, property, family, succession and so on. Simply because our time is limited, we shall have to confine our examination to a few selected areas where conflicts cases are fairly common.

An understanding of conflicts involves principally our understanding of an approach to the problem. Unfortunately for you there are at the moment a great many warring theories concerning the appropriate approach to conflicts problems. I have my own point of view which I shall certainly state, but I shall do my best to explain the other theories as sympathetically as I can. Though I have said that you are unfortunate in facing the task of understanding conflicts problems when there are several theories competing for attention and understanding, yet, in many ways this can be a very exciting exploration into some of the most thought provoking problems of the law.

